

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 USIA-06
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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MO
SUBJ: "MINIMUM LEVEL" FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 172346

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED
MINIMUM FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO.
AFTER REVIEWING THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
OF THE MOROCCAN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO ENDORSE
THE FIGURE OF \$25 MILLION IN THE LIGHT OF THE SPECIAL CIRCUM-
STANCES THAT WILL OBTAIN FOR FY 79. WE HOPE THE FOLLOWING WILL
ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE POINT BELOW WHICH OUR PROGRAM WOULD
BE MEANINGLESS.

2. THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF GOM ARMED FORCES WHICH WE HAVE
UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT SIGNIFICANTLY IS KEYED TO MATERIAL
DELIVERED UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) PROGRAM.
DELIVERIES, AND THUS FMS PAYMENTS, PEAK IN THE PERIOD FY 78-79,
DECLINING SHARPLY THEREAFTER. THE AMOUNT PROJECTED FOR FY 78 FMS
PAYMENTS IS \$128 MILLION; FOR FY 79 IT IS \$125 MILLION. THE
FMS CREDIT LEVEL FOR FY 78 HAS BEEN SET AT \$45 MILLION, A
"ONE TIME" INCREASE ABOVE THE \$30 MILLION LEVEL OF THE PRE-
CEDING SEVERAL SUCCESSIVE YEARS. FOR THE FOLLOWING FY 79,
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GOM IS THUS COMMITTED TO AN FMS PAYMENT SCHEDULE ONLY \$3
MILLION LESS, WHILE HAVING TO FACE A DECREASE IN FMS CREDIT
OF \$15 MILLION OFF THE FY 78 PEAK, IF RETURN TO FY 77 FUNDING
LEVEL IS CONTEMPLATED, OR A STEEPER DECREASE OF \$20 MILLION
IF THE FUNDING LEVEL FALLS TO \$25 MILLION. THIS STEEPER
DECREASE ON VERY SHORT NOTICE WOULD OVERWHELM GOM BUDGET
PLANNERS, AND COULD THREATEN THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF A

NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM WORKED UP IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH USG.

3. FURTHERMORE, WE SEE GOM AS NOT BEING ABLE TO DECREASE, BUT INSTEAD FACING A ONE-TIME INCREASE, IN ITS COMMITMENTS FOR FY 79 TO SUPPORT THE MOROCCAN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. IN RABAT 3891, WE CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF GOM'S ANTICIPATED FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACQUISITIONS IN PRIORITY ORDER; THEY ARE AGAIN LISTED HERE IN THAT SAME ORDER, WITH AN ESTIMATED REPEAT ESTIMATED COST:

A. NATIONAL LOGISTICS CENTER	\$14.4 MILLION
B. PRECISION MEASURING EQUIPMENT LABORATORY	\$ 6.5 MILLION
C. FIELD ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT	\$11.6 MILLION
D. WHEEL/TRACK VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY	\$ 9.5 MILLION
TOTAL: \$42.0 MILLION	

4. WHILE THE TOTAL VALUE OF EACH NEW FY 79 ACQUISITION IS NOT LIKELY TO FAIL DUE THAT SAME FY, DOWN PAYMENTS OF 25 PERCENT OR \$10.5 MILLION WILL HAVE TO BE ADDED TO FY 79 COMMITMENTS.

5. AS STATED IN RABAT 3891, THE ACQUISITION OF THE FIRST TWO ITEMS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE DOWNSTREAM SUCCESS OF THE MOROCCAN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, AND THEIR ACQUISITION CANNOT BE DELAYED WITHOUT SERIOUS DETRIMENTAL IMPACT. WITHOUT THE FIELD ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, THE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE EXISTING FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY AIRFIELDS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ALREADY

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SUFFERING FROM DEFERRED MAINTENANCE, WOULD DETERIORATE EVEN FURTHER; WITHOUT THE WHEEL AND TRACK VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY, THE NEWLY ACQUIRED COMBAT AND COMBAT-SUPPORT VEHICLES OF THE TWO-BRIGADE MODERNIZATION FORCE WOULD RECEIVE LESS THAN ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE.

6. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT MINIMUM FUNDING BE MAINTAINED AT THE CURRENT (FY 77) LEVEL OF \$30 MILLION FOR FY 79 ONLY. THIS FUNDING LEVEL, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY FAR BELOW PROJECTED NEEDS, HAS BEEN AN INFORMAL PLANNING GUIDE FOR GOM FOR SOME TIME. A DECREASE TO \$25 MILLION OF THIS LEVEL WOULD UNEXPECTEDLY INTRODUCE SIGNIFICANT INTERFERENCE INTO THE GOM PAYMENTS PROGRAM, THEREBY THREATENING DELIVERIES OF FMS MATERIAL. AS THESE DELIVERIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROGRAMMED INTO US PRODUCTION AND GOM DEFENSE PROGRAMS, RESULTING COMPLICATIONS WOULD BE FELT BY BOTH SIDES.

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